



THE HAZELNUT

A City of Tukwila publication for our residential and business communities

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2009

Impacts of wild winter weather felt all around City

Snow report for 2008

Severe weather conditions and record snow accumulations in December 2008 brought hazardous driving conditions to travelers and holiday shoppers alike. Our recent winter's snow conditions were anything but normal for the Puget Sound region.

The Tukwila Street Department lead the plowing and sanding operations on City streets during this snow event. The Street Department was assisted by Police, Parks, Water, Sewer and Surface Water Departments. Plowing and sanding operations continued around the clock with four plow/sander combinations, an additional plow only, and one sander only. The crews applied 853 tons of sand and 12 tons of rock salt.

The City's priority during a snow and ice event is to keep the commercial business district, main arterials, school bus routes and fire routes open before moving into residential neighborhoods. There were times when the snow was falling faster than equipment and manpower were able keep up. Despite the record snow accumulations, no essential City services were interrupted and requests for Police and Fire aid were met.



Landslide closes Interurban Avenue

Early on the morning of January 8, 2009, a landslide composed of approximately 450 cubic yards of wet soil and vegetation fell from the hillside onto Interurban Avenue South north of Fort Dent Way. The landslide covered nearly all four travel lanes and caused the roadway to be closed for almost 24 hours while the material was cleared. No one was hurt by the landslide, but one vehicle was damaged when the barrier at the bottom of the hillside was pushed out into the street.

The stability of the hillside has been studied by geotechnical engineers on several occasions and there is no recommended "cheap and easy" fix. Weathering of the exposed face and build-up of vegetation will continue, contributing to future slides. Stabilization of the face of the hillside by some engineered means would be very expensive and the site is situated primarily on private property. The current recommended approach is to inspect the hillside regularly, remove any build-up of loose material, and construct a containment wall near the toe of the hillside that will prevent slide material from falling on Interurban Avenue South below.

City Council Actions: October 2008 –January 2009

October 2008

Appointed Steve Mullet to Tukwila's Arts Commission.

Appointed Eugene DeMesa and Alma Villegas to Equity and Diversity Commission.

Authorized purchase of automated cashiering system for City Hall.

Authorized settlement agreement between City and Union Pacific Railroad.

Held a public hearing on Fire Master Plan.

Authorized supplemental contracts with IBI Group for Tukwila Urban Center Transit Center Design Services & Andover Park West (Tukwila Pkwy to Strander Blvd) Update Design Report.

Authorized Memorandum of Agreement with Pierce County for Fire Department's continued participation in Washington Task Force 1 of FEMA National Urban Search & Rescue Task Force System.

November 2008

Held public hearing on ordinance to amend Comprehensive Plan's Capital Facilities Element to add "Fire" to list of uses funded by City, to reference Fire and Parks Master Plans, and to add Level-of-Service goals for both Fire and Parks services.

Held public hearing on and approved ordinance renewing six-month moratorium on electronic signage within City.

Authorized Mayor to sign agreement with Pertee Engineering, Inc., for GIS Inventory Area 5 project.

Held public hearing on proposed biennial 2009–10 Budget and 2009–2014 Capital Improvement Plan.

Appointed Brooke Alford to Planning Commission.

Held public hearing on and approved ordinance increasing regular property tax levy one percent from previous year, commencing January 1, 2009.

Approved ordinance increasing sewer rates and resolution increasing water rates, commencing January 1, 2009.

Authorized purchase and sale agreement with Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County, for acquisition of open space at 5800 South 152nd Street.

Approved ordinance establishing level-of-service standards for parks and open space.

Awarded contract for East Marginal Way Fiber Interconnect project to Dennis R. Craig Construction, Inc.

December 2008

Approved resolution adopting Public Works Land Use fee schedule.

Approved resolution adopting new permit fee schedule.

Adopted biennial 2009-10 Budget and the 2009-2014 Financial Planning Model and Capital Improvement Program.

Awarded Recyclers of the Year to Red Dot Corporation and Starfire Sports.

Reappointed Trisha Gilmore and Cynthia Chesak to Arts Commission.

Reappointed Sharon Kidd and Steve Miller, and appointed Dylan Flesch to Library Advisory Board.

Reappointed Bonnie Mullet to Sister Cities Committee.

Awarded contract for Tukwila International Blvd Phase II and III Improvements to Gary Merlino Construction Company.

Approved ordinance adopting 2008 Fire Master Plan with inclusion of Mayor's response specifying phased implementation, and establishing level-of-service goals for Fire services.

Approved ordinance amending Capital Facilities Element of City's Comprehensive Plan to add "Fire" to list of uses funded by General Fund, to reference and incorporate 2008 Fire and Parks Master Plans, and to add level-of-service for Fire and Parks services.

Approved ordinances establishing assessment of Fire and Parks impact fees on new residential, commercial, and industrial development in City.

Requested Mayor provide annual schedule to review impact fees and additional sources of revenue, as well as taxes, and to provide Council with information regarding cost of doing business in Tukwila.

January 2009

Elected Joan Hernandez as Council President.

Appointed Andrew Kim to Sister Cities Committee.

Authorized resolution for Tukwila's participation in Cascade Agenda City Program.

*For up-to-date information
about Council meetings,
agendas, and activities, visit:
<http://www.ci.tukwila.wa.us>*



COUNCIL CORNER

New Years News from the Council President

by Joan Hernandez, Council President

Council Message Line

206-431-3652

Meeting Agenda Info Line

206-431-3656

Your City Council offers sincere wishes of good health and happiness for you and your family in this new year.

Although there may be challenges along the way, we hope we can all work together to make Tukwila a better place to live both for today and in the future.

Tukwila law requires that “members of the City Council shall elect from their number a Council President” at the first Regular Meeting of each year. At the January 5 Regular Meeting, it was my privilege to be elected Council President for 2009. Wonder exactly what a Council President does? Tukwila’s Municipal Code stipulates that “in the absence of the Mayor, the Council President shall become the Mayor Pro Tempore and perform the duties of the Mayor except that the Council President shall not have the power to appoint or remove any officer or to veto any ordinance.”

Other responsibilities include presiding at each “Committee of the Whole” meeting (held the second and fourth Mondays of each month) and appointing Committee chairs and members to the four standing committees of the Council. I was pleased to make these Council Committee assignments:

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

1st & 3rd Mondays @ 5:00PM

De'Sean Quinn, Chair

Dennis Robertson

Verna Griffin

FINANCE & SAFETY COMMITTEE

1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 5:00PM

Pam Linder, Chair

Joe Duffie

De'Sean Quinn

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS & PARKS

2nd & 4th Mondays @ 5:00PM

Verna Griffin, Chair

Joe Duffie

Kathy Hougardy

UTILITIES COMMITTEE

2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 5:00PM

Kathy Hougardy, Chair

Pam Linder

Dennis Robertson

At the beginning of the Committee of the Whole Council meeting on January 12, Girl Scout Troop #470 members led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. I have recommended that we continue this as a tradition throughout the year. We extend an invitation to all Tukwila residents, non-profit organizations and businesses who wish to volunteer to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance at a future Committee of the Whole meeting. After introductions and leading the Pledge, guests are welcome to excuse themselves or stay for the remainder of the meeting, or address the meeting under Citizen’s Comments. It’s an opportunity for us to get acquainted with more people in our community, and for an organization to gain some public recognition. During Citizen’s Comments, community residents, organizations or businesses can bring any interests or concerns to the Council’s attention. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please contact me or Kimberly Matej, Legislative Analyst, at 206-433-1834, to arrange a date when we can put you on our Council Agenda. We look forward to more people attending our City Council meetings and taking an active involvement in local government affairs.

Tukwila’s Shoreline Master Program Update

The Tukwila Planning Commission continues its work reviewing the draft Shoreline Master Program. Please visit the City’s web site at www.ci.tukwila.wa.us for a strikeout/underline draft version of the Shoreline Master Program, or to find out the status of the Planning Commission’s actions. Once the Planning Commission completes its review, their recommended Shoreline Master Program will be submitted to the City Council for its review and approval. The Council will hold public meetings and a public hearing to hear from affected property owners and interested parties. The Council’s Community Affairs and Parks Committee will review the document first, followed by the Committee of the Whole. Meeting dates will be posted on the City’s web site.

If you have questions, or would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive information about the Shoreline Master Program, please contact Carol Lumb at 206-431-3661 or clumb@ci.tukwila.wa.us.





Tukwila adopts Walk & Roll Plan

The easy part is done – now comes the hard part of funding and building trails, bike facilities and sidewalks. The Walk and Roll Plan was adopted by the City Council on January 20, 2009. Money allocated by the City Council will be used to determine construction options (including design and cost) for the following sidewalk and bike projects. The work of actually putting paint on pavement, moving existing or planned sidewalks, or pouring asphalt or concrete may take some time but the selection of the streets is complete.

Bike lanes are proposed on the following streets:

- ◆ Tukwila International Boulevard
- ◆ 42nd/40th/East Marginal Way S.
- ◆ Macadam Road S./51st Avenue S./53rd Avenue S.
- ◆ Andover Park East
- ◆ Boeing Access Road
- ◆ South 112th Street
- ◆ South 130th Street
- ◆ South 135th Street
- ◆ South 140th Street
- ◆ South 144th Street
- ◆ South 144th Street
- ◆ South 160th Street
- ◆ Baker Boulevard
- ◆ Minkler Boulevard
- ◆ South 180th Street

The following street segments were chosen for proposed sidewalk construction because of their proximity to schools, and/or the higher volume of traffic or vehicle speed limits.

Be involved in building Tukwila's future

- ◆ S. 130th Street (between TIB and Macadam Road S.)
- ◆ S. 141st Street (between TIB and 42nd Avenue S.)
- ◆ S. 142nd Street (between TIB and 37th Avenue S.)
- ◆ S. 140th Street (between Tukwila International Boulevard (TIB) and 46th Avenue S.)
- ◆ S. 144th Street, south half (between TIB and 51st Avenue S.)
- ◆ S. 146th Street (between TIB and 47th Avenue S.)
- ◆ S. 148th Street (between TIB and 46th Avenue S.)
- ◆ 51st Avenue S. (between S. 144th Street and SR 518)
- ◆ 53rd Avenue S. (between S. 144th Street and Interurban Avenue S.)
- ◆ Macadam Road S. (between S. 150th Street and S. 144th Street)
- ◆ Klickitat Drive (between 53rd Avenue S. and SR 518)

Another exciting element of the Plan is expanding unpaved paths within neighborhoods. We request your involvement in deciding where and how these paths are constructed. Unused public right-of-way exists that could be cleared of blackberries and used for trails and walking paths for neighborhood residents, employees and/or school children.

Maps of the individual neighborhoods and potential path locations are available by contacting Moira Bradshaw at mbradshaw@ci.tukwila.wa.us or Jaimie Reavis at jreavis@ci.tukwila.wa.us, or by calling 206-431-3670. Also, if you have a scouting group, school site council, business group, service organization or recreation association who would like to be involved in building a trail that expands access to or recreation around your facility, please give us a call or email.

Volunteers needed for Tukwila Pond Wetland Buffer work party

The Tukwila Pond wetland buffer enhancement project, highlighted in previous issues of the Hazelnut, is moving ahead with another work party – scheduled for Saturday, February 28, starting at 9:00AM – to plant and mulch native trees and shrubs in the buffer along Andover Park West.

The project will improve the habitat for birds, small mammals and frogs along the recently restored wetland located south of Strander on the southeast side of Tukwila Pond. Funded in part by a “WaterWorks” grant from King County’s Department of Natural Resources and Parks, the project will enhance



Work party warriors: Girl Scouts of Western Washington Service Unit 35 after planting and mulching 100 native trees and shrubs in fall of 2008

public access, and is one part of an overall plan to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and public enjoyment at Tukwila Pond.

If you would like to help with planting, dress for the weather and bring work gloves. The City will provide shovels and rakes, but you are welcome to bring your own tools as well. We will meet at the site just south of the Burger King on Andover Park West. For more information, please contact Shannon Fisher in the Department of Parks and Recreation at 206-768-2822, or Sandra Whiting in the Department of Community Development 206-431-3663.

Draft Tukwila Urban Center Plan nears completion

The draft Tukwila Urban Center plan for the Southcenter area is just about ready for review!

The draft Plan strives to bolster the urban center's market position as the primary regional shopping and employment center for King County by providing even greater opportunities for attracting and retaining businesses; improving automobile and transit access to and within the area; creating more housing opportunities within walking distance of the Sounder commuter rail station; improving walkability; and improving access to public open spaces like Tukwila Pond.

The draft Urban Center Plan has been in development since 2003, with participation by the Tukwila business community and residents at seven public workshops and four joint City Council and Planning Commission worksessions. Since 2005, the City has been refining the draft plan by "testing" its standards and guidelines on redevelopment projects; meeting with local and regional developers to ask the ques-

tion, "Does this plan work?"; and implementing some of the key concepts of the draft Plan, such as funding the design of a pedestrian bridge across the Green River to make it easier for employees, shoppers and visitors to walk from the rail station to the Southcenter area.

Public review of the draft Tukwila Urban Center Plan is anticipated to kick-off in March 2009 with an informational open house followed by Planning Commission review and a public hearing.

Want to learn more? Information on the planning process and summaries of past public workshops' comments can be found on the City's website - soon to be added are the draft plan and a public review schedule. Questions or comments? Please contact Nora Gierloff, Deputy Director of Commu-

nity Development, at ngierloff@ci.tukwila.wa.us, or Lynn Miranda, Senior Planner at lmiranda@ci.tukwila.wa.us. You can also give them a call at 206-431-3670.



Why You Shouldn't Top Your Trees!

It won't work. Topping (cutting tree limbs off at the top) won't work to keep trees small. After a deciduous tree is topped, its growth rate increases (unless it is so damaged that it dies), in an attempt to replace its missing leaf area. It needs all of its leaves so that it can manufacture food for the trunk and roots. It won't slow down until it reaches about the same size it was before it was topped. It takes a few years before your tree returns to near its original size.

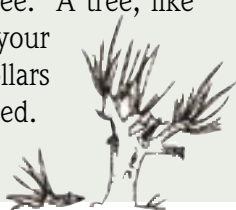
It's expensive. A topped tree must be re-done every few years and eventually removed when it dies or the owner gives up. Each time a branch is cut, numerous long, skinny young shoots ("suckers") grow rapidly back to replace it. They must be cut and recut, but they always regrow the next year making the job even more difficult. Topping also reduces the appraised value of your tree. A tree, like any landscape amenity, adds to the value of your property. Appraisers subtract hundreds of dollars from the value of a tree when it's been topped.

It's dangerous. Topping is the most serious injury you can inflict upon your tree. Ironically, many people top their trees because they think it will make them safer, but topping creates hazardous trees.

Severe or repeat topping can open the tree to internal columns of rotting wood, eventually allowing the possibility of limbs or the entire tree to fail. Repeated removal of leaves (the tree's food source) starves the tree and makes it susceptible to secondary diseases. New limbs from the regrowth are weakly attached and break easily. The thick regrowth of suckers or sprouts resulting from topping make the tree top-heavy and more likely to catch the wind, increasing the chance of blowing down in a storm.

For information on good pruning techniques or to find a qualified tree firm, please visit the Plant Amnesty website at www.plantamnesty.org, or call them at 206-783-9813.

(modified from an article by Cass Turnbull, Plant Amnesty)



Low-income assistance available for heating bills

As Washington state recovers from the recent winter cold weather and storms, PSE customers having trouble paying their heating bills are reminded that almost \$29 million in monetary assistance is available this year from two low-income programs administered by community service agencies.

LIHEAP – The Federal government's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides financial assistance to eligible low-income households – with incomes equal to or less than 125% of poverty guidelines – to help pay for their winter heating bills. Funding may also be available for emergency services such as heating system repairs/replacements for qualifying households.

HELP – Puget Sound Energy's Home Energy Lifeline Program (HELP) provides additional bill-payment assistance (beyond the Federal LIHEAP program) to qualified PSE customers. Eligible customers can receive up to \$750 per year in credits to lower their electricity or natural gas bills.

Both HELP and LIHEAP are administered by nonprofit community service agencies. HELP funds are available to PSE customers year-round, while LIHEAP funds are available through June 30, 2009, or until the funding is exhausted.

The amount of HELP aid given to a PSE electricity or natural gas customer varies according to household size, income, and energy usage. The program is open to residential customers with household earnings between 125% and 150% of the Federal poverty standard; for a family of four, the monthly income cap is \$2,650.

Depending on income and household size, a qualified low-income recipient could receive \$750 from PSE's HELP and up to \$1,000 in LIHEAP bill credits.

WARM HOME FUND – PSE customers can also apply to the Salvation Army's Warm Home Fund for emergency, short-term utility bill assistance. This fund – through voluntary contributions by PSE employees, customers and shareholders – provided over \$700,000 to assist nearly 4,000 families. Contact your nearest Salvation Army district office for more information about the Warm Home Fund.

The utility also encourages customers to sign up for the balanced payment plan, which averages bills across a 12-month period. Call PSE at 1-888-225-5773.

PSE's HELP recently requested and received a \$4.8 million boost in funding approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, which will provide nearly \$14.7 million in 2009 to help low-income households in PSE's service area pay their natural gas and electricity bills.

Additionally, in November 2008 the Federal government doubled the dollars earmarked for LIHEAP. Community service agencies serving residents in PSE's 11-county Washington state service area will receive a \$14 million appropriation from LIHEAP this year, representing a 100% increase over the 2008 funding level.

If you are interested in participating in any of these programs, need more information, or want to know if you are eligible, please contact.

King County Multi-Service Center (for South King County)
Toll-free phone number: 1-800-348-7144



You may be eligible for 2008 utility tax rebates

In 2003 the City of Tukwila imposed a Utility Tax and added surcharge to Seattle City Light customers as a contract fee. A policy has been established by the City to rebate the additional taxes and contract surcharge fees to low-income seniors (62 or older) or disabled residents who may be eligible for electric and natural gas utility rebates.

CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be at least 62 years of age or disabled.
- Must have combined income of less than \$31,150 or less than \$27,250 if single.
- Must be a Puget Sound Energy or Seattle City Light customer.

REQUIRED INFORMATION (DUE BY JUNE 30, 2009):

- Must complete one-page application at the Finance Department in Tukwila City Hall.
- Must provide copy of their 2008 Income Tax Return.
- Provide their Puget Sound Energy or Seattle City Light Account number.

PAYMENT PROCESS:

Those applicants determined to be eligible will receive a rebate check from the City based on the actual taxes and surcharges paid for 2008. For additional information, please call Lily Jue at 206-433-7190.



News from Tukwila's Public Works Department

Standby Power Upgrade

The Standby Power Upgrade Project is currently underway to provide backup generators for City Hall and Fire Stations 52, 53 and 54. Ebanal General, Inc., has been contracted to purchase and install the four generators at a cost of \$523,200.00. The generators have been designed to provide adequate power to keep these facilities fully functional during a power outage. Each generator is being placed in accordance with applicable City codes and electrical requirements and located in areas to minimize effects of exhaust, noise, and aesthetic conditions. The generators will be placed upon concrete pads with a fuel tank. The project should be completed and ready to run by the end of March 2009.



Tukwila International Boulevard Phase II & III construction

The construction bid opening for Tukwila International Boulevard (TIB) Phase II and III (S 116th Street to S 139th Street) Project was held on November 13, 2008. Ten bids were submitted and the lowest bidder was Gary Merlino Construction Company, Inc., at \$12,261,309.20. The City Council awarded the construction contract to the lowest bidder on December 15, 2008. The TIB Phase II & III project is being funded by Federal Highway Administration grants, State Transportation Improvement Board grant, State WSDOT Nickel Package (gas tax), along with the City's surface water and general funds.

The TIB Phase II & III project will upgrade the roadway to include curbs, gutters, sidewalks, new drainage, and landscaping to continue the improvements along Tukwila International Boulevard. City staff are now working on a construction management team, utility coordination and a pre-construction meeting. The construction start date is expected to be sometime this March, and the project will be under construction for over two years.

Utility rate increases for 2009

In order to keep pace with the City's water and sewer utility costs, a rate increase has been approved by the City Council for 2009. The expenses to operate and maintain the City's infrastructure have increased each year due to aging pipe, significant cost increases for materials, and Cascade Water Alliance wholesale water charges. Effective January 2009, the summer water rate for residential customers will increase from \$3.38 per 1 CCF to \$3.89.

Flat residential sewer rates will increase from \$10.12 to \$11.64, and commercial rates from \$17.71 to \$20.37 per 750 cubic feet of water consumption. Monthly sewer bills also include the King County Metro sewage treatment charge which will increase from \$27.95 to \$31.90 per month.

The King County Council also increased the sewer capacity charge in 2009. The current charge of \$46.25 per month (set up as a payment plan for 15 years) will increase to \$47.64 per month in 2009. The sewer capacity charge only affects new sewer hookups from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

Surface Water fees will not increase in 2009. The current rate for single family parcels will remain \$71.00 per year.



Southcenter Boulevard Improvements

Sound Transit continues the improvements along Southcenter Boulevard (S 154th Street). The road construction started in early 2008 from Tukwila International Boulevard to 53rd Avenue S (I-5). Major elements of the road project – including curbs, gutters, sidewalks, two travel lanes, center median, retaining walls and a regional storm drainage detention facility – have been substantially completed. Restoration is underway for street lighting, planting, final asphalt paving and other project elements with scheduled completion by July 2009, when the Tukwila International Boulevard Station is scheduled to open for Sound Transit Light Rail.

Holiday miracles were made possible by local citizens and businesses

Each year the Tukwila Community Center – along with the Community Schools Collaboration – coordinates a Holiday Giving Program in which local children and families are ‘adopted’ for the holidays. These families receive gifts, meals, and a lot of hope through this program. Tukwila Parks and Recreation thanks and recognizes the following businesses and organizations for their generosity in helping make this program possible:

Advent Print Resources • All Covered

Andover Terrace Garden Club

Beta Sigma Phi/PGU from Kent

City of Tukwila Community Development Dept.

City of Tukwila Parks and Recreation Department

City of Tukwila Public Works Department

Claim Jumpers • Embassy Suites

Fatigue Technology • Foster High School ASB

Integra • Johnson Braud Design Group, Inc

Insurance Professionals of South King County

Macys Star Council

Macys Operation and Logistics Department

Pacific Metal • Riverton Park Methodist Church

Sound Community Bank

Southcenter Boarders Book Store

Southgate Garden Club • Starfire Sports

Thales Avionics • Tukwila Learning Center Preschool

Tukwila Library Board • Tukwila Rotary

Zee Medical

In addition to these businesses and organizations, we thank the following community members who also helped make it all possible through the spirit of giving:

Dave and Molly Graffe • The Bartley Family

The Bundy Family • The Fontaine Family

The Myklebust Family • The Rayner Family

The Richardson-Caron Urban Family

Because of your generous contributions we were able to help over 120 local children and families have a wonderful holiday. Thank you!

Senior Adult Programs organize a Wii Bowling league and tournament

In October of 2008, Tukwila Parks and Recreation Senior Adult Programmer Lani Chandler put together a Wii Bowling league that included teams from the cities of Auburn, Bonny Lake, Burien, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Kent, Sea Tac, and Tukwila.

Teams competed once a week for three months; the winner of the league was the “Gutter Girls” from Tukwila.



On Wednesday, January 7, sixteen teams from the above-listed cities participated in an end-of-the-season Wii Bowling tournament at the Great American Casino in Tukwila. This great event featured a welcome address by Tukwila’s Mayor Jim Haggerton, five TV screens going at once, a luncheon buffet, door prizes, and lots of enthusiasm.

The tournament ended with a tie, because seniors were forced to leave the event early due to heavy flooding in South King County. The tied winners were “Split Happens” from Tukwila and the team “Wiisels Too” from SeaTac.





Your Tukwila Police Department

"Law Enforcement Excellence"



New K9 Police team

On November 30, Tukwila Officer Jamie Sturgill and his K9 partner Gino began their first night of patrol as a K9 team in the city.

Officer Sturgill is a six-year Tukwila Police veteran and was selected earlier in the year as the Department's eighth K9 handler since the program started in Tukwila. This coveted position requires the City's very best officers. Officer Sturgill is given much responsibility and must make the right decision each time he deploys Gino to track a suspect or search an area. It also requires sacrifice and commitment – not only from Officer Sturgill – but from his family as they add a member to their household.



Gino turned two on New Years Eve. He is a sable-in-color German Shepard imported from Germany. The Department purchased Gino from a kennel owned by an Everett police officer and K9 trainer in Snohomish County.

On November 28, Officer Sturgill and Gino successfully completed the approved 400-hour Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission K9 course, passing with high marks and accolades from the instructor.

At the January 5 Regular Meeting, Assistant Chief Mike Villa introduced the K9 team to the City Council. Prior to that, Mayor Haggerton and Council members got to know Gino up close as he trotted through the chambers with Officer Sturgill keeping him close on lead. Officer Sturgill expressed his appreciation to city staff, council, and wife and two children who were present.

Tukwila Police now have two K9 teams that work Monday through Sunday during evening hours. The teams work in partnership with other K9 teams within the valley, so they are available to respond outside the city if needed and likewise Tukwila can call upon other K9 teams.

A 2009 calendar showcasing these valley cities' K9 teams can be purchased by contacting Officers Devries at 206-433-1808. Proceeds from the calendars help to support retired police K9s.

Forensic artist is one of law enforcement's best tools

Have you ever tried to provide a detailed description of a person to someone? Most people provide vague information that could truly be associated with a vast number of people. It takes specific skills to recall descriptive information accurately.

Detective Jeff Early, a detective with the Major Crimes Unit of the Tukwila Police Department, is an expert at helping people recall and describe the people that they see. Jeff has worked for the City more than 20 years, and he has been the Department's Forensic Composite Artist for nine years.

Forensic composite art is the ability to draw sketches of criminal suspects from witness and victim descriptions, who answer the artist's specific focused questions that facilitate an amazing recall of detail. Usually the sketches are of peoples faces, but it also works for objects such as hats or clothing with distinctive logos. It has been and is still one of the most useful law enforcement tools for successfully identifying and apprehending suspects.

It is estimated that there are less than 100 officers in Washington State with Forensic Composite Artist training. Detective Early is among these rare few. With over 160 hours forensic art training, he has completed more than sixty composite sketches over the years, including sketches for several other police agencies around the state.

Detective Early's skills as a Forensic Composite Artist have led to the capture of many criminals. His expert skills in this field are a source of pride for the Tukwila Police Department.



Detective Early's composite sketch resulted in the apprehension of this suspect.

The Tukwila Police Department invites you to attend FREE Crime Prevention Training in March. For full details, contact Chris Partman, Community Policing Coordinator, at 206 431-2197.

City-funded programs for Tukwila citizens

With support from the Mayor's Office and the Tukwila City Council, the Tukwila Human Services Advisory Board recommended 36 (including seven new) human service programs for 2009–2010, providing assistance to Tukwila residents in need. Among these programs:

Tukwila Children's Foundation – providing Tukwila children with scholarships and other funding to meet educational, recreational, social and health needs and providing a wider safety net for low-income children in our community.

Domestic Abuse Women's Network – supporting women and children impacted by domestic violence through legal advocacy, peer support group, and youth programs that focus on violence education.

YWCA Children's Domestic Violence Services – providing ten weeks of homebased education and advocacy-based counseling for children and their non-abusive caregivers.

Consejo Counseling and Referral Service – offering culturally/linguistically appropriate community and legal advocacy services to non- and limited-English proficient Latina survivors of domestic violence in South King County.

Health Point Natural Medicine Program – targeting uninsured/underinsured families with difficulty accessing primary medical care services through traditional private provider systems, to provide medical care on a sliding fee scale.

Sound Mental Health – serving vulnerable homeless single adults – mentally ill and/or chemically dependent and/or with severe disabilities – by engaging them in service, and working towards finding them permanent housing.

YWCA of Seattle/King/Snohomish Counties – Emergency Housing Program provides emergency shelter and case management services to homeless families with children.

For information about these and other Tukwila human service programs, please call 206-433-7180 or 206-433-7181

Volunteers still needed for senior transport

Senior Services' Volunteer Transportation Program is still seeking volunteer drivers to transport Tukwila seniors – at no charge – to medical appointments in Seattle, Tacoma, and on the Eastside. These drivers also serve as escorts, waiting with seniors at their appointments before driving them home. Using their own vehicles, volunteers get mileage and parking reimbursement, supplemental liability insurance, and flexible hours. Please call us at 206-448-5740 or 1-800-282-5815, or apply online at www.seniorservices.org.

Help with minor home repairs available

Tukwila's Minor Home Repair program will once again be available for low- to moderate-income homeowners of all ages. In 2008, twenty-one Tukwila residents received over 200 hours of fully subsidized minor home repairs covering a wide range of needs – gutter and furnace cleaning, railing repair and installation, small carpentry repairs, toilet and sink repair, light fixture repair, broken windows and doors, caulking and weather stripping, installation of grab bars and other modifications for individuals with disabilities, etc. Safety and health-related jobs are given priority.

Over 90% of clients returning customer surveys indicated that their overall satisfaction with the quality of services received was excellent or good.

The availability of this program allows limited-income homeowners to keep their homes in good repair, while providing support to keep people safe in their homes. Contractors are licensed and bonded and have had years of experience in small repair work. Funds are available through a grant from the federal Community Development Block Grant Program, awarded through a contract with King County.

All repair requests are screened through the Tukwila Human Services office for eligibility review. Please call 206-433-7180 to learn more about this program.

Residents who have repairs too large for the Minor Home Repair program are encouraged to apply for no-interest loans through the King County Housing Repair program at 206-263-9095. Loans are available for up to \$25,000 and are paid back when the home is sold or title transferred, when the home is refinanced or is no longer used as a primary residence. Tukwila mobile home owners may be eligible for grants up to \$5,000.



Renters with disabilities are eligible for free home accessibility modification grants that allow the renter to live more easily in their rental unit. Types of repairs that are provided include wheelchair ramps, door widening, modifications for hearing impaired, grab bars, transfer lifts, roll in showers and plumbing and lighting fixtures designed for the special needs consumer. Maximum grants are \$5,000 and tenants are screened by income eligibility. Call 206-263-9095.



E-Cycle Washington is here!

In 2006-2007, Washington State passed its E-waste law – landmark legislation controlling the recycling of electronic waste, with product manufacturers paying the costs and providing a 100% FREE, convenient and environmentally responsible way to recycle televisions, computers, monitors, and portable or laptop computers (but not computer peripherals such as keyboards, mice or printers). The E-Cycle Program is available to households, small businesses, schools & school districts, small government agencies, special purpose districts, and nonprofits and charities.

Why recycle electronics?

Many electronics (especially TVs and computers) contain toxic materials such as lead, cadmium and mercury. Reusing and recycling electronics keeps these toxic materials out of our landfills and incinerators while also recovering valuable resources.

Collected electronic equipment will be taken apart and separated into materials such as glass, plastic, metal and toxic chemicals. All recycling will follow performance standards set up by the Department of Ecology.

Manufacturers, collectors, recyclers, retailers, local and state government and non-profit groups working together have established about 200 collection sites around the state, including several in Tukwila. New state law mandates “product stewardship”, making manufacturers of products that contain toxic material responsible for taking them back, and making consumers responsible for bringing in these products for recycling, rather than throwing them away to end up in a landfill.

Where can I recycle electronics?

In Tukwila, the following sites participate in Washington’s E-Cycle program by accepting computers, monitors and televisions free of charge. Be sure to check with each business individually to learn specific details and applicable conditions.

American Electronics Recycling

18435 Olympic Avenue S, Tukwila
Online: www.aercorecyclers.com
Toll-free phone: 1-888-880-1254
Hours: 8:30AM–3:00PM Mon/Fri/Sat

Goodwill Southcenter Store

1174 Andover Park West, Tukwila
Phone: 206-575-4944
Hours: 9:00AM–9:00PM Mon–Sat,
10:00AM–7:00PM Sun

RE-PC

510 Andover Park West, Tukwila
Online: www.repc.com/
Phone: 206-575-8737
Hours: 10:00AM–7:00PM Mon–Sat

For a complete list of E-Cycle Washington collection sites, go online to www.ecyclewashington.org, or check out the Department of Ecology online at 1800recycle.wa.gov or by calling 1-800-RECYCLE.

What if my electronic equipment still works?

You can donate to one of many groups and businesses focused on making used electronics available for reuse. If you have any old PCs or televisions, then think about reusing or selling the item first. But if the useful life is passed, please utilize this free service to help our environment and to make E-Cycle Washington a success!

Energy Savings at Home

The wild weather of late 2008 reminded us all that winters in western Washington can be unpredictable and cold! To stay warm, your first reaction may be to raise the thermostat, but this can result in some pretty high heating bills. So before you touch the dial, check out these simple tips to help you take control of your winter heating costs.

- Have your heating system inspected by a qualified contractor for peak efficiency operation.
- Use a programmable thermostat that’s specifically designed for your heating system.
- Lower your thermostat to 68°F while you’re awake; set it lower while you’re asleep or away from home.
- Use fireplace doors to cut down on warm air going up the chimney. Also, avoid using your fireplace during extremely cold weather because you lose more heat up the chimney than you gain from the fire.
- If you use a window air conditioning unit, remove it during the winter to reduce cold air drafts. If not possible, cover all sides of the unit to minimize warm air leakage.
- Make sure vents, cold air returns or radiators are not covered by furniture, carpet or anything that may impede proper airflow.
- Don’t blow away a full house of heat! Keep warm air in and cold air out by closing and properly sealing windows and doors. Immediately repair broken and cracked windows –no matter how small the opening.
- In winter, open window coverings to let daytime sunshine in, and close them at night to keep out the cold.
- Turn off those silent energy users such as the stereo, VCR, computer, fax and scanner, or set them to automatically turn off.

For more information, contact Recycling Coordinator Rebecca Fox Phone: 206-431-3683 Email: rfox@ci.tukwila.wa.us

CITY DIRECTORY

TUKWILA CITY HALL

6200 Southcenter Boulevard
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30AM–5:00PM
Telephone: 206-433-1800
Fax number: 206-433-1833
TTY number: 206-248-2933
Website: <http://www.ci.tukwila.wa.us>
E-mail: tukwila@ci.tukwila.wa.us

TUKWILA CITY COUNCIL

Joe Duffie (beeper #)206-994-7229
Joan Hernandez, Pres.206-248-0260
Pamela Linder.....206-439-2473
Dennis Robertson.....206-242-6373
Verna Griffin206-901-9251
Kathy Hougardy.....206-244-5023
De'Sean Quinn206-241-0225
Kimberly Matej, Analyst206-433-1834
Council Message Line206-431-3652

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

7:00PM in Council Chambers

Regular Meetings 1st/3rd Mondays
Work Meetings2nd/4th Mondays
Agenda Info Line.....206-431-3656

CITY OFFICES

Mayor's Office

Jim Haggerton, Mayor206-433-1805
Rhonda Berry, City Admin.....206-433-1851
City Clerk's Office206-433-1800
Economic Development206-433-1832
Human Services206-433-7180
Municipal Court.....206-433-1840
Tourism/Marketing.....206-575-2489

Community Development Dept.

Jack Pace, Director206-431-3670
Code Enforcement206-431-3682

Finance Department

Shawn Hunstock, Director206-433-1835

Fire Department

Nick Olivas, Chief206-575-4404

Information Technology Department

Mary Miotke, Director206-433-7150

Parks/Recreation Department

Bruce Fletcher, Director206-767-2342

Personnel Department

Viki Jessop, Director206-433-1831
Personnel.....206-433-1831
City Job Line.....206-433-1828

Police Department

David Haynes, Chief206-433-1808

Public Works Department

Jim Morrow, Director206-433-0179

Emergency

Fire, Police.....911

TUKWILA COMMUNITY CENTER

12424 - 42nd Avenue South
Recreation Division206-768-2822
Senior Center/Services206-767-2323

TUKWILA CITY POOL

4414 S. 144th Street.....206-267-2350

FOSTER GOLF LINKS

13500 Interurban Avenue South
Pro Shop206-242-4221
Restaurant206-267-7427

THE HAZELNUT

*newsletter is published five times a year by the
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Editing/production: Stacia Norris*

Tukwila's Sign Code Update – keeping our city lookin' good

Tukwila is in the process of updating its current Sign Code, adopted in 1982, because it does not provide the tools and resources needed to adequately address the signage issues of a large commercial center like Tukwila.

In 2007, the City Council authorized staff to begin working on a new Sign Code and created the Sign Code Advisory Committee to provide an opportunity for public involvement. Comprised of business representatives, residents, a Planning Commission member and two City Councilmembers, the Committee met six times to consider various issues. In October, they completed their review and made recommendations for the new sign regulations.

The City anticipates adopting its new Sign Code by the end of summer 2009. There will be several opportunities for public comment and involvement. The Planning Commission will hold a hearing and send a draft to the City Council, who will then review that recommendation and hold its own hearing.

Sign Code Moratorium

During the process of updating the Sign Code regulations, Tukwila's Sign Code Advisory Committee provided initial recommendations that will limit the placement of some signs that are permitted under the current Sign Code. To ensure certain types of signs are not placed before expected adoption of the new Sign Code this summer, on October 6, 2008 the City Council passed an emergency six-month moratorium prohibiting the installation of the following sign types:

- *Animated and Electronic*
- *Billboards*
- *Freestanding signs taller than six feet*
- *Freeway Interchange Signs*

For additional information about the Sign Code update process or the moratorium, visit www.ci.tukwila.wa.us/dcd/signcodereg.html or contact Brandon Miles, by phone at 206-431-3684, or by email at bmiles@ci.tukwila.wa.us.



THE HAZELNUT

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Tukwila, WA 98188*

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